**Government Unit 1: Foundations of Government**

**Overview:** This unit will provide an introduction to the foundations of American government. You will learn about the various people, philosophies and documents that shaped the government we have today. You will become familiar with the structure of government and will build on this knowledge throughout the year.

**Standards:**

* Government Standard 4.2.a Describe the origins, purposes and limitations of government and include the contribution of key philosophers and documents
* Government Standard 4.2.b Identify the structure, function, and roles of members of government and their relationship to democratic values
* Government Standard 4.2.c Analyze and explain the importance of the principles of democracy and the inherent competition among values. Values to include but not be limited to freedom and security, individual rights and common good, and rights and responsibilities
* Government Standard 4.2.d Analyze the role of the founding documents and the evolution of their interpretation through governmental action and court cases. Documents to include but not limited to the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights
* Government Standard 4.2.e Use media literacy skills to locate multiple valid sources of information regarding the foundations, structures, and functions of government

**Daily Plans:**

Tues., 8/23:

Objective: Understand the challenges of forming a government.

Assignment: Pre-assessment. Participate in an activity with your table about forming a functioning government. Get class expectations signed and get supplies.

Weds., 8/24:

Objective: Dissect the goals of America’s founders through the Preamble.

Assignment: Complete quote worksheet. Participate throughout presentation. Get supplies.

Thurs., 8/25 and Mon., 8/29

Objective: Describe the contributions of key philosophers to government.  
Assignment: Choose topics and begin Key Philosophers project (due Tuesday, 8/30)

Tues., 8/30  
Objective: Describe the contributions of key philosophers to government.  
Assignment: Key Philosophers gallery walk notes

Weds., 8/31

Objective: Understand the need for an American government.

Assignment: Notes

Thurs., 9/1

Objective: Understand the contributions of key ideas to government.

Assignment: Complete Articles of Confederation graphic organizer and vocabulary exercise.

Tues., 9/6

Objective: Understand the contributions of key ideas to government.

Assignment: Use the textbook to complete the Types of Government/Colonial Period handout. Complete the venn diagram comparing/contrasting Natural Rights and Classical Republicanism using notes and the book.

Weds., 9/7  
Objective: Understand the purpose of the Bill of Rights.  
Assignment: Read "Why the Bill of Rights?" article and answer the questions at the end (does not have to be in complete sentences). Work as table groups to complete fundamental rights handout.  
  
Thurs., 9/8  
Objective: Understand the purpose of the Bill of Rights and how it relates to your life.  
Assignment: Bill of Rights scenarios. Take notes on the cases discussed.   
  
Fri., 9/9  
Objective: Understand the purpose of the Bill of Rights and how it relates to your life.  
Assignment: Use the Bill of Rights website and other sources to locate articles in the news today that relate to the foundational rights we enjoy in the US.

Mon,. 9/12

Objective: Understand the purpose of the Bill of Rights and how it relates to your life.

Assignment: Read the articles from Upfront about Technology and the Law and complete reading guide.

Tues., 9/13

Catch-up day

Weds., 9/14

Review day

Thurs., 9/15

Unit Assessment